

From: Nancy Ward
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 7:50pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Ms. Hesse:

I write, as a private citizen, to oppose the Justice Department's proposed Microsoft Settlement, currently under review.. I believe that Microsoft has a history of stifling innovation in computer technology, thus harming individual consumers and the national economy.

An atmosphere in which witnesses of Microsoft's violations are afraid to inform law enforcement officials of their knowledge, which has existed in this country, is harmful to the computer technological industry, as well as law enforcement and belief in the efficacy of the justice system in our country.

Since the settlement does virtually nothing to protect computer manufacturers and others from Microsoft's retaliation, those who defy Microsoft's behavior and views of the technological world are left to become martyrs to what the legislation prohibiting monopolies was designed to prevent.

Remedies proposed by the nine state attorney generals who are still plaintiffs would genuinely constrain Microsoft from its unfair business practices and liberate the technological industry from Microsoft's shadow of fear. Left unchecked that shadow will grow and expand into other areas--why wouldn't it, if there's nothing to stop it, nothing to challenge the unfair and illegal behavior? The existence of such a monopolistic entity is a threat to the well-being of all who challenge it in the future, and all who would strive for a different and better industry.

Send a message, that justice in the USA is not dead, a commodity sold to the highest bidder, or a kickback to the highest political contributor. Help us be free of this monstrous, harmful entity. Let innovation flourish in this once dynamic field. By freeing the development and exchange of ideas in the technological field, you will help us all to flourish.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my comments.

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